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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF [redacted]

//CHILE: IN A CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 11 MARKING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER, PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PARTIALLY EASE THE STATE OF SIEGE, BUT HE REAFFIRMED ITS INTENTION TO RESTRICT INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. MOST OF THE SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO REITERATING THE REGIME'S MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, ITS FIERCE OPPOSITION TO MARXISM, AND ITS DETERMINATION TO STICK WITH A HARD LINE./[redacted]

//NO NEW DEPARTURES WERE ANNOUNCED IN ECONOMIC OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE ONLY NOTEWORTHY INNOVATION WAS A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A "COUNCIL OF STATE" COMPOSED OF FORMER PRESIDENTS AND OTHER PROMINENT CITIZENS TO ADVISE THE JUNTA ON MAJOR QUESTIONS. WHILE THIS WOULD SEEM TO OPEN THE DOOR TO COOPERATION WITH KEY POLITICIANS SUCH AS FORMER PRESIDENT EDUARDO FREI, LEADER OF THE LARGE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THE MOVE TOWARD A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE. FREI [redacted] FORESEES THE EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF SOME FORM OF COOPERATION WITH THE ARMED FORCES, BUT HE IS PROBABLY HOPING THAT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WILL FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON ITS

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EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE ADVISERS AND PERHAPS ALTER THE JUNTA LEADERSHIP.[redacted]

//THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG DISTRUST OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND HIS INDIRECT CRITICISM OF THEM IN HIS SPEECH SEEM TO SHOW THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY REAL SHIFT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITARIAN ATTITUDE OR ITS TENDENCY TO EQUATE ALL OPPOSITION WITH SUBVERSION. ACTUALLY, THE PROPOSAL IS MORE LIKELY TO BE A PUBLIC RELATIONS GAMBIT THAN A FORTHRIGHT STEP TOWARD GREATER POLITICAL TOLERANCE.//4

//PINOCHET'S DECISION TO REDUCE THE STATE OF SIEGE MAY ALSO BE A LARGELY EMPTY GESTURE. THE DECISION WILL ALLOW SOME REVIEW AUTHORITY BY CIVIL COURTS, BUT THERE WILL PROBABLY BE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE IMPACT UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT CHOOSES TO ABIDE BY DECREES MORE CLOSELY THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST. THERE HAS BEEN A REPEATED TENDENCY TO LOOK THE OTHER WAY WHILE THE SECURITY FORCES IGNORE THE LETTER AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW. THERE WAS NO NEW WORD ON THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS.[redacted]

//FOR THE MOST PART THE PRESIDENT DWELLED ON HIS NOW STANDARD THEME THAT CHILE STANDS VIRTUALLY ALONE IN ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST

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MONOLITHIC WORLD COMMUNISM. [redacted] HIS GENERALLY LACKLUSTER STATEMENTS FOUND A LESS ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION THAN LAST YEAR. THE RELATIVELY MINOR MODIFICATIONS HE PROPOSED WILL NOT GO FAR TOWARD STAISFYING CHILEANS WHO HAD HOPED FOR GREATER POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AND A MORE HUMANISTIC ECONOMIC POLICY. NOR WILL THEY DO MUCH TO BOLSTER CHILE'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE./[redacted]

//ALTHOUGH PINOCHET SAID THE INTERNAL UNITY OF THE JUNTA WAS "LIKE GRANITE." WE BELIEVE THAT GENERAL LEIGH, THE AIR FORCE MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, IS UNLIKELY TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S HARD-LINE STANCE. MORE FRICTION OVER POLICYMAKING SEEMS INEVITABLE.

[redacted]

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